GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4274
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2000
EXPORT OF SPICES
ASHOK ARGAL;DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the export of spices has declined during last two years;

(b) if so, the quantum and value of spices exported from the country during the above period, year-wise and the names of States and Union territories affected due to such decline;

(c) whether the Government have taken some effective steps to boost the export of spices;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred by Spices Board for the promotion of spices exports during the last two years;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints about the mismanagement in Spices Board; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to rectify the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (HRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b): The export earnings from spices have gone up during the last two years, both in rupee and dollar terms. However, there has been a decline in the quantity of spices exported as given below:

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)	Value (US$)
1998-99 (P)	231389	1758.02	419.68
1999-2000(E)	208825	1861.02	430.20

(P) Provisional
(E) Estimated

Source: Spices Board.

Since no data is maintained on State-wise sourcing of spices for export, it is not possible to identify the States and Union Territories from where sourcing of spices for export has declined.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Some of the steps taken to boost exports of spices include :-

i) Rationalisation of cess on export of spices at a uniform rate of 0.5%.

ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like award of `Indian Spices Logo` to exporter of value added spices and the grant of `Spice House Certificate` to exporters of spices in bulk who adhere to quality standards.

iii) Striving to improve quality of Indian spices and spices products besides making products cost competitive through introduction of improved technology.

iv) Technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

v) Product diversification by developing new markets, new applications and new brands.

vi) Developing organic spices and spice products for catering to the niche markets for organic spice products.

vii) Sending business delegations to develop market for Indian spices.

The Spices Board has incurred an expenditure ofRs. 343.88 lakhs during 1998-99 and Rs. 410.00 lakhs during 1999-2000 on various export promotion schemes.

(e) & (f): Representations /references of general nature on the performance/ working of the Spices Board have been received which have been attended to. However, no specific complaints have been received on the mis-management of the Board.